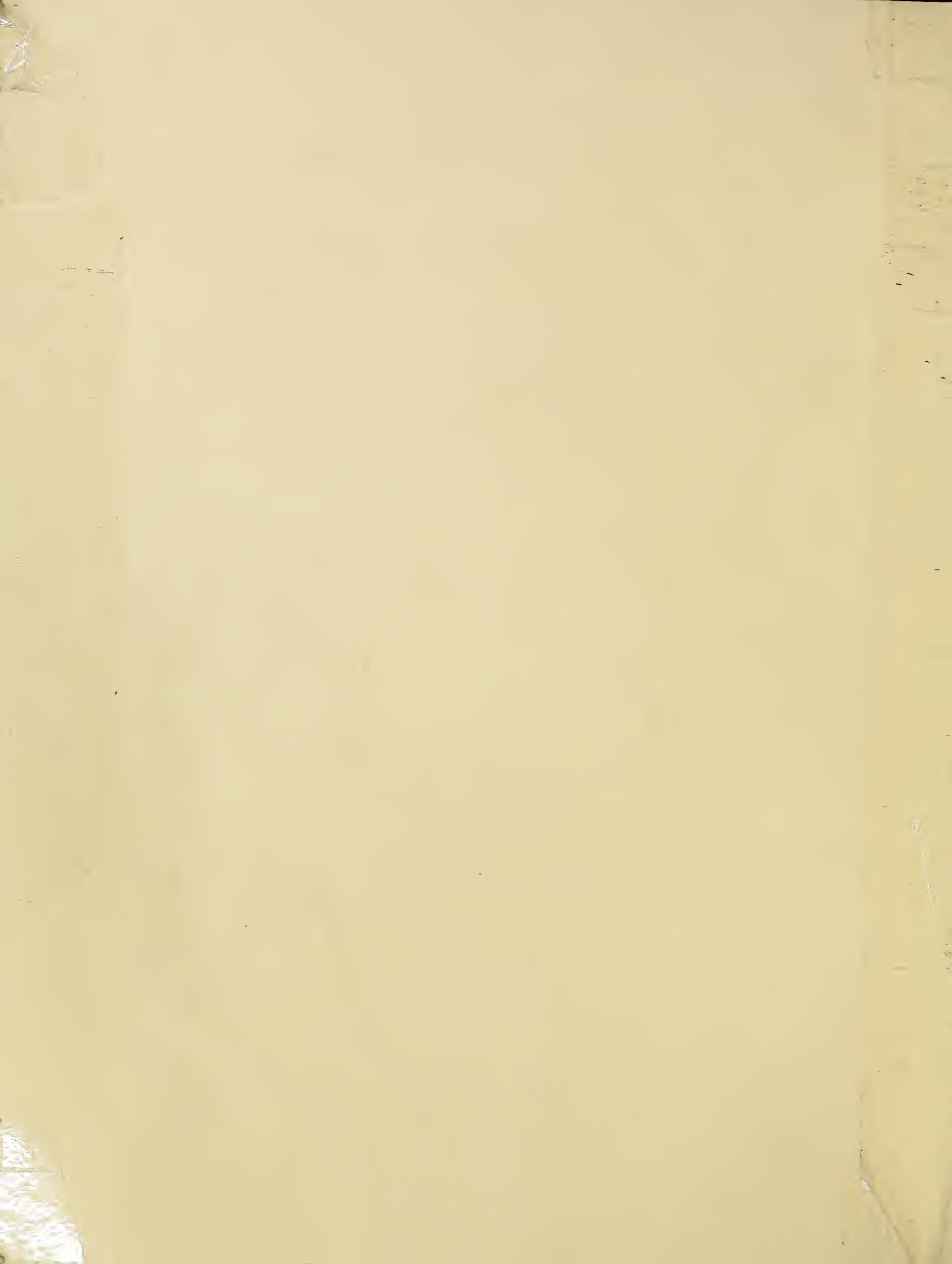


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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
PRODUCTION AND MARKETING ADMINISTRATION  
INFORMATION BRANCH  
30 Van Ness Avenue  
San Francisco 2, California

In cooperation with the  
Federal-State Market News Service

#### WHAT'S NEWS IN THE MARKETS?

(USDA Food Bulletin for the week ending Oct. 22, 1948)

SAN FRANCISCO, Oct. 19--- Grapes continue to hold the top spot as far as Best Buys in fruit are concerned. Principal varieties available include Thompson Seedless, Ribiers, Muscats, Tokays, Emperors, and Cornichons.

There is no change from last week in the Fair Buy line-up on fruits. Still included on the list are cranberries, apples, strawberries, small oranges, and miscellaneous melons (Persian, Honeydew, Cranshaw, Casaba).

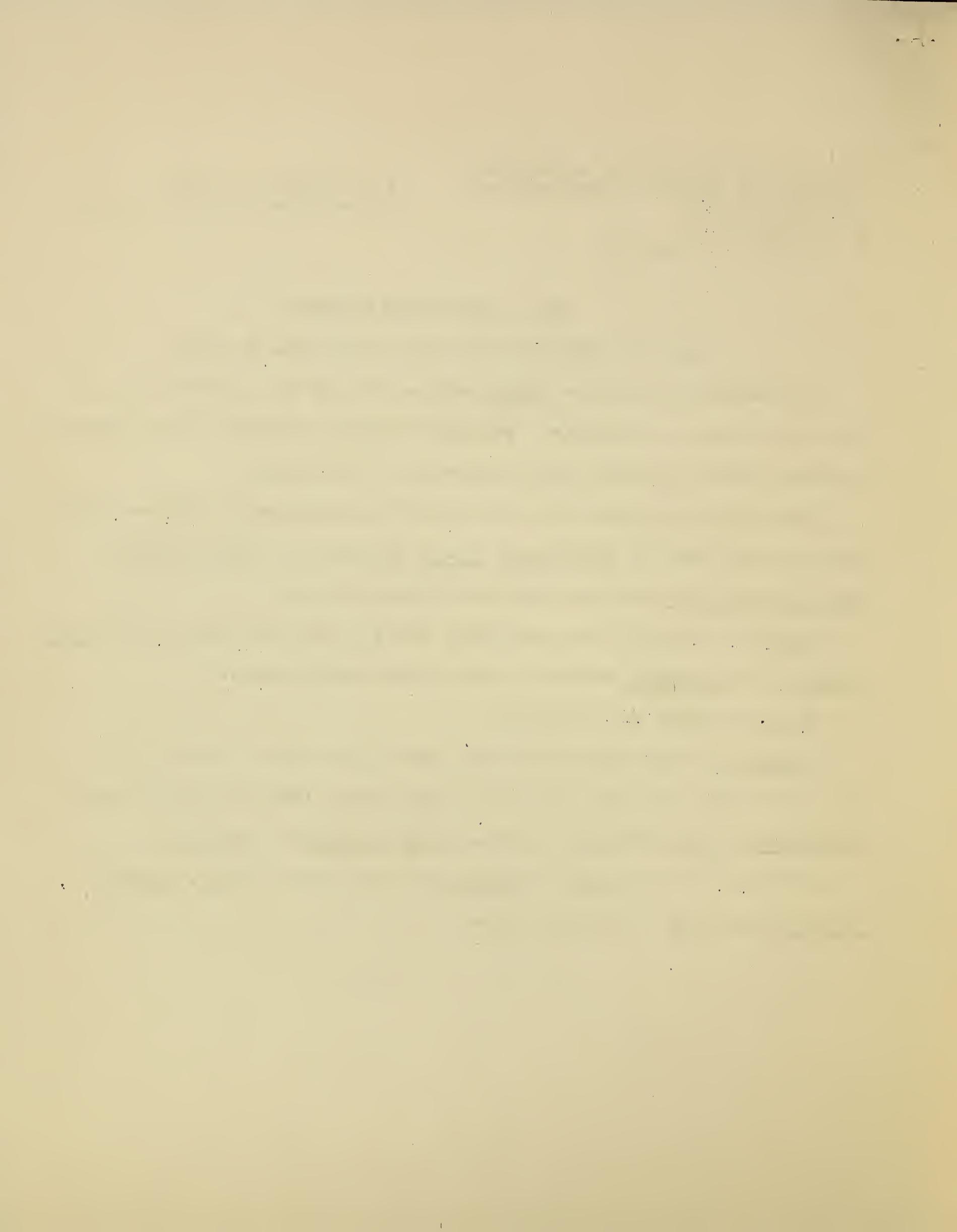
Lemons are slightly lower priced than last week but still high, as are large oranges. And grapefruit continues on the rather expensive side.

Pears are higher than last week.

Tomatoes are this week's outstanding buy in vegetables. Supplies are a good deal heavier, and prices are considerably lower. Other Best Buys include cauliflower, lettuce (slightly higher), onions, peppers, and potatoes.

Fair Buys include carrots and squash at higher prices, celery, cabbage, cucumbers, eggplant, and sweetpotatoes.





Trading in the San Francisco wholesale meat market this past week has been characterized by supplies more than ample for the slackened demand, a wider range of quality, and lower prices. On beef, quality has been mostly of Commercial to low-Good grades at prices \$1.00 lower on steer and heifer carcasses, and \$2.00 lower on cow carcasses. Prices on beef cuts have also been running \$1.00 to \$2.00 lower. Veal and calf supplies have consisted of fairly liberal offerings of Good and Choice grades at unchanged prices. Good and Choice grades of lamb were in less demand after mid-week, with the result that prices dropped \$1.00 per hundredweight on carcasses. A moderate supply of ewe mutton held unchanged in price. Very liberal supplies of fresh pork accumulated, and prices dropped \$3.00 to \$4.00 per hundredweight. Smoked hams have dropped \$6.00 to \$8.00, and slab bacon has dropped around \$2.00 per hundredweight.

San Francisco wholesale butter prices have followed the trend of lower prices in other markets and have dropped 2 to 4 cents from last week. Grade A(92 Score) is 2 cents per pound lower at 67 cents per pound, while Grade B(90 Score) is down 4 cents at 63 cents per pound. Production continues on the downgrade, but supplies are ample for all needs of the present demand.

Eggs have continued in good demand -- especially light supplies of top grades. Medium-sized eggs are in slightly heavier supply. Prices have held unchanged on Large Grade "A" eggs at 67 to  $67\frac{1}{2}$  cents per dozen, but have gone up 1-cent on Mediums and Smalls, and 2 cents on Grade "B" Large. Grade "A" Mediums are quoted at 64 to  $64\frac{1}{2}$  cents per dozen, Smalls at 49 to  $49\frac{1}{2}$  cents, and Grade "B" Large at 51 to  $51\frac{1}{2}$  cents per dozen.

Poultry has been in only moderate demand. Young chickens have been in liberal supply and have continued to drop in price -- 1 to 2 cents per pound on broilers, fryers, and roasters. A fairly good demand for hens has held them about unchanged in price, while both hen and tom turkeys have gone up about 2 cents per pound.

